

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett

The Godfather of Kathmandu John Burdett: A Deep Dive into a Crime Fiction Maestro

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett is not just a phrase but a gateway into the intriguing world of a British crime novelist whose work has captivated readers worldwide. John Burdett, often hailed as the godfather of Kathmandu for his vivid portrayal of Nepal's capital in his novels, has carved a unique niche in contemporary crime fiction. His gripping storytelling, atmospheric settings, and complex characters have made his books a must-read for those who appreciate a fusion of gritty crime narratives with rich cultural backdrops.

Who is John Burdett?

John Burdett is a British author known primarily for his crime fiction novels that often explore the underbelly of Southeast Asia. Born in London, Burdett's writing career took a distinctive turn when he moved to Bangkok, Thailand, where he immersed himself in the culture and realities of the region. This firsthand experience added authenticity and depth to his works, setting him apart from many other authors in the genre.

The Unique Appeal of Burdett's Writing

Burdett's novels are renowned not only for their thrilling plots but also for their philosophical undertones. He deftly weaves Eastern philosophy, Buddhism, and local traditions into his crime stories, providing readers with more than just a whodunit. This layered approach invites readers to ponder life, morality, and justice in ways that typical crime novels often overlook.

The Godfather of Kathmandu John Burdett: The Novel and Its Significance

One of Burdett's most notable works is "The Godfather of Kathmandu," a novel that plunges into the mysterious and sometimes dangerous world of Nepal's capital. The book follows Detective Sonchai Jitpleecheep, a recurring character in Burdett's series, as he navigates through a labyrinth of crime, spirituality, and cultural conflicts.

Exploring Kathmandu Through Crime Fiction

The godfather of kathmandu john burdett's novel is more than a crime thriller—it's a vivid portrait of Kathmandu, capturing its chaotic charm, spiritual depth, and socio-political complexities. Through Burdett's eyes, readers get an intimate glimpse of a city where ancient traditions collide with modern challenges.

Detective Sonchai: A Character Study

Detective Sonchai Jitpleecheep is arguably Burdett's most compelling creation. A Thai Buddhist police officer with a complex personal life and a sharp mind, Sonchai embodies the contradictions of the rapidly changing Asian societies Burdett explores. His introspective nature and moral dilemmas add layers of humanity to the fast-paced crime investigations.

Themes and Motifs in Burdett's Work

John Burdett's writing frequently touches on themes such as corruption, spirituality, identity, and the clash between tradition and modernity. His ability to interlace these themes with gripping crime stories makes his novels both thought-provoking and entertaining.

Spirituality and Buddhism

Burdett's deep interest in Buddhism is a recurring element in his novels. The godfather of kathmandu john burdett artfully integrates Buddhist concepts like karma, suffering, and redemption, which not only enrich the narrative but also provide a cultural context that Western readers might find enlightening.

Crime and Corruption in Southeast Asia

Burdett's novels don't shy away from depicting the darker sides of Southeast Asian societies. From drug trafficking and human smuggling to political corruption, his stories highlight the challenges faced by law enforcement and ordinary citizens alike in rapidly developing regions.

Writing Style and Narrative Techniques

Burdett's writing style is characterized by sharp dialogue, vivid descriptions, and a fast-moving plot. His

narrative often combines gritty realism with philosophical musings, making his books engaging on multiple levels.

Use of Local Color and Setting

One of the strengths of the godfather of kathmandu john burdett's novels is the authentic depiction of setting. His detailed portrayal of cities like Bangkok and Kathmandu, including their markets, temples, and backstreets, creates a palpable sense of place that pulls readers into the story.

Multi-layered Characters

Beyond the protagonist, Burdett populates his stories with a rich cast of characters, each with their own motivations and backgrounds. This complexity adds depth and realism, avoiding simplistic good-versus-evil narratives.

Why Readers Should Explore John Burdett's Work

For lovers of crime fiction who crave something beyond the usual detective story, John Burdett offers a refreshing change of pace. His novels provide not only suspense and mystery but also a thoughtful exploration of culture and philosophy.

Tips for New Readers

- Start with "Bangkok 8," the first book in the Sonchai series, to get acquainted with the protagonist and Burdett's style.
- Pay attention to the cultural nuances and philosophical reflections sprinkled throughout the narrative.
- Appreciate the blend of action and introspection that makes Burdett's work stand out.

Impact on Modern Crime Fiction

Burdett's integration of Asian settings and themes into Western-style crime fiction has helped broaden the genre's horizons. His success encourages other writers to explore diverse cultures and complex moral questions within the crime narrative framework.

The Godfather of Kathmandu John Burdett Beyond the Books

John Burdett's influence extends beyond his novels. He has been involved in various literary and cultural discussions about Southeast Asia, contributing to a greater understanding of the region through his storytelling. His work has been praised for bridging cultural gaps and challenging stereotypes.

Adaptations and Media Interest

There have been talks about adapting Burdett's novels into films or television series, given their cinematic quality and compelling characters. Such adaptations could bring the godfather of kathmandu john burdett's vision to a wider audience, showcasing the vibrant settings and intricate plots that define his writing.

Exploring the literary world of the godfather of kathmandu john burdett offers more than just thrilling crime stories—it's a journey through the complexities of human nature, culture, and spirituality set against the backdrop of some of Asia's most fascinating cities. Whether you are a fan of mystery, intrigued by Asian cultures, or simply in search of a fresh voice in crime fiction, Burdett's novels promise an enriching and unforgettable reading experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is John Burdett, the author of 'The Godfather of Kathmandu'?

John Burdett is a British crime novelist known for his series of Bangkok-based detective novels, including 'The Godfather of Kathmandu.'

What is 'The Godfather of Kathmandu' about?

'The Godfather of Kathmandu' is a crime thriller that delves into the dark underworld of Nepal, focusing on crime, corruption, and the complexities of Nepalese society.

Is 'The Godfather of Kathmandu' part of a series?

Yes, 'The Godfather of Kathmandu' is part of John Burdett's series featuring detective Sonchai Jitpleecheep, set in Southeast Asia.

What themes are explored in 'The Godfather of Kathmandu'?

The novel explores themes such as crime, corruption, the clash between tradition and modernity, and the underbelly of Kathmandu's society.

How does John Burdett portray Kathmandu in his novel?

Burdett portrays Kathmandu as a city with a vibrant yet shadowy side, highlighting its cultural richness alongside crime and corruption.

What genre does 'The Godfather of Kathmandu' belong to?

It belongs to the crime fiction and thriller genres.

Has 'The Godfather of Kathmandu' received critical acclaim?

The book has been praised for its vivid setting and complex characters, though some critics note its dark and gritty portrayal of Nepalese society.

Where can I buy or read 'The Godfather of Kathmandu'?

The book is available for purchase on major online retailers like Amazon, and in bookstores worldwide; it is also available in e-book formats.

What inspired John Burdett to write 'The Godfather of Kathmandu'?

Burdett was inspired by his travels and experiences in Southeast Asia and Nepal, aiming to explore the region's crime scene and cultural dynamics through fiction.

Additional Resources

The Godfather of Kathmandu John Burdett: A Deep Dive into the Literary Phenomenon

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett is a phrase that resonates strongly within the realms of crime fiction and travel literature. John Burdett, a British author best known for his unique crime novels set in Southeast Asia, has earned this moniker through his compelling narratives and vivid portrayal of Kathmandu's dark underbelly. His work, particularly the novel titled **The Godfather of Kathmandu**, serves as a bridge between Western literary traditions and the complex cultural, social, and political fabric of Nepal's capital. This article explores the significance of John Burdett's work, his influence on crime fiction, and his nuanced depiction of Kathmandu.

Understanding John Burdett's Literary Style and Themes

John Burdett's writing is distinguished by its gripping storytelling, intricate plots, and rich cultural insights. Unlike many crime novelists who focus solely on suspense and action, Burdett delves into the socio-political realities of his settings, offering readers a multi-layered experience. His narratives often explore themes such as corruption, morality, power struggles, and the collision between tradition and modernity.

In **The Godfather of Kathmandu**, Burdett navigates the city's complex social hierarchy, revealing the shadows cast by organized crime, political corruption, and international intrigue. His protagonist is often a morally ambiguous figure—an anti-hero who must negotiate personal codes of ethics within a chaotic environment. This approach has earned Burdett critical acclaim for transcending conventional crime fiction tropes.

The Intersection of East and West in Burdett's Work

One of the most compelling features of John Burdett's novels is his ability to weave Eastern philosophies and cultural nuances into Western narrative frameworks. Kathmandu, with its rich history, diverse population, and religious significance, serves as an ideal backdrop for exploring these intercultural tensions.

Burdett's portrayal of Kathmandu goes beyond superficial descriptions; he incorporates local customs, religious beliefs, and the city's geopolitical significance. His characters often grapple with spiritual questions, reflecting the pervasive influence of Buddhism and Hinduism in daily life. This cultural depth adds authenticity and complexity to his storytelling, distinguishing him from other authors who might treat such settings as mere exotic locales.

The Godfather of Kathmandu: Plot and Setting Analysis

The novel **The Godfather of Kathmandu** is a testament to Burdett's mastery in blending crime fiction with cultural exploration. Set in the labyrinthine streets of Kathmandu, the story follows a protagonist entangled in a web of drug trafficking, political machinations, and familial loyalties. The plot is layered with suspense but also offers a profound commentary on Nepal's societal challenges.

Characterization and Moral Ambiguity

A hallmark of Burdett's writing is his complex characterization. In **The Godfather of Kathmandu**, characters are rarely purely good or evil; instead, they operate within shades of gray, reflecting real human

complexities. The titular “Godfather” is not merely a crime lord but a figure embodying the contradictions of power—charismatic yet ruthless, protective yet self-serving.

This nuanced characterization invites readers to consider broader questions about justice and authority. Burdett challenges the simplistic binaries often found in crime fiction, offering a more realistic portrayal of human motivations in high-stakes environments.

Depiction of Kathmandu’s Crime Landscape

The novel sheds light on Kathmandu’s underworld, an aspect often overlooked in mainstream media. Burdett’s detailed depiction of criminal networks, from drug syndicates to political corruption, provides an insider’s perspective on the challenges facing Nepal’s capital.

This exploration is not merely sensationalist; it highlights systemic issues such as poverty, governance failures, and the impact of globalization. By situating his narrative within this context, Burdett contributes to a deeper understanding of Kathmandu beyond its tourist-friendly image.

John Burdett’s Impact on Crime Fiction and Travel Literature

John Burdett’s work, including **The Godfather of Kathmandu**, has significantly influenced both crime fiction and travel literature genres. His ability to combine the thrilling elements of crime narratives with rich cultural exposition offers a unique reading experience.

Comparisons with Other Crime Fiction Writers

When compared to contemporaries like Ian Rankin or Michael Connelly, Burdett distinguishes himself by choosing less conventional settings and incorporating cultural and philosophical layers into his narratives. While Rankin’s Edinburgh or Connelly’s Los Angeles are familiar urban landscapes, Burdett’s Kathmandu is exotic yet authentically rendered, offering readers fresh perspectives.

Additionally, Burdett’s incorporation of local religious and ethical dilemmas adds a dimension often absent in Western-centric crime fiction. This positions him within a niche of writers who not only entertain but also educate readers about global cultures.

Enhancing Travel Literature through Fiction

Burdett's novels function as a form of travel literature by immersing readers in the sights, sounds, and social dynamics of Kathmandu. Unlike conventional travel guides, his fiction captures the city's atmosphere through narrative immersion, making readers feel the tension, vibrancy, and contradictions of urban Nepal.

This dual function enhances the appeal of **The Godfather of Kathmandu** for readers interested in both crime stories and travel narratives. It also opens up discussions on how fiction can complement traditional travel writing by providing emotional and psychological insights into a place.

Pros and Cons of Burdett's Portrayal of Kathmandu

While John Burdett's depiction of Kathmandu has been widely praised, it is important to consider both the strengths and limitations of his approach.

- **Pros:**

- Authentic and in-depth cultural representation
- Complex characters that defy stereotypes
- Insightful commentary on social and political issues
- Engaging blend of crime fiction and travel narrative

- **Cons:**

- Potential for reinforcing negative stereotypes about crime and corruption
- Complex narrative may challenge readers unfamiliar with Nepalese culture
- Some critics argue the moral ambiguity can be unsettling for those seeking clear-cut heroes

These points illustrate that while Burdett's work is rich and thought-provoking, it requires readers to engage actively with the material and approach it with an open mind.

Reception Among Nepalese Readers and Critics

The reception of **The Godfather of Kathmandu** within Nepal has been mixed but largely appreciative of Burdett's effort to portray the city beyond tourist clichés. Some readers commend the novel for raising awareness about the socio-economic realities of Kathmandu, while others caution against overemphasizing the darker aspects, fearing it may perpetuate negative perceptions.

This debate reflects broader conversations about representation in literature and the responsibility of authors writing about cultures not their own. Burdett's respectful and well-researched approach, however, has generally been acknowledged as a positive contribution to cross-cultural understanding.

Final Thoughts on The Godfather of Kathmandu John Burdett's Legacy

John Burdett's **The Godfather of Kathmandu** stands as a significant work in contemporary crime fiction, not only for its thrilling plot but also for its immersive cultural portrayal and moral complexity. The novel exemplifies how literature can serve as a lens to examine and understand the multifaceted realities of places like Kathmandu.

By blending suspenseful storytelling with insightful social commentary, Burdett challenges readers to reconsider preconceived notions about crime, power, and identity in a globalized world. His legacy as the godfather of Kathmandu in literary circles underscores the enduring power of fiction to illuminate, provoke, and connect disparate cultural landscapes.

[The Godfather Of Kathmandu John Burdett](#)

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: [The Godfather of Kathmandu](#) John Burdett, 2010 Sonchai Jitpleecheep - John Burdett's inimitable Royal Thai Police detective with the hard-bitten demeanor and the Buddhist soul is summoned to the most shocking and intriguing crime scene of his career. Solving the murder could mean a promotion, but Sonchai, reeling from a personal tragedy, is more interested in Tietsin, an exiled Tibetan lama based in Kathmandu who has become his guru.

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: *The Godfather of Kathmandu* John Burdett, 2010-01-12 Sonchai Jitpleecheep—John Burdett's inimitable Royal Thai Police detective with the hard-bitten demeanor and the Buddhist soul—is summoned to the most shocking and intriguing crime scene of his career. Solving the murder could mean a promotion, but Sonchai, reeling from a personal tragedy, is more interested in Tietsin, an exiled Tibetan lama based in Kathmandu who has become his guru. There are, however, obstacles in Sonchai's path to nirvana. Police Colonel Vikorn has just named Sonchai his consigliere (he's been studying *The Godfather* on DVD): to troubleshoot, babysit, defuse, procure, reconnoiter—do whatever needs to be done in Vikorn's ongoing battle with Army General Zinna for control of Bangkok's network of illegal enterprises. And though Tietsin is

enlightened and (eerily) charismatic, he also has forty million dollars' worth of heroin for sale. If Sonchai truly wants to be an initiate into Tietsin's "apocalyptic Buddhism," he has to pull off a deal that will bring Vikorn and Zinna to the same side of the table. Further complicating the challenge is Tara: a Tantric practitioner who captivates Sonchai with her remarkable otherworldly techniques. Here is Sonchai put to the extreme test—as a cop, as a Buddhist, as an impossibly earthbound man—in John Burdett's most wildly inventive, darkly comic, and wickedly entertaining novel yet. From the Hardcover edition.

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the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: The Last Six Million Seconds John Burdett, 2012-05-29 It is April 1997, and all of Hong Kong is counting down to July 1, when Britain will hand over rule of the country to China. Public anxiety about the transfer of power is running high, but "Charlie" Chan Siu-kai's biggest concern is a gruesome triple murder case, with no solid leads. Chan, a half-Chinese, half-Irish Hong Kong native and chief inspector with the Royal Hong Kong police, thinks he's found a breakthrough when three mutilated heads are found floating in Chinese waters. But he grows increasingly frustrated as the Chinese police actively hinder—and the English bureaucrats pointedly ignore—his investigation. As Chan tracks the killers, he discovers cover-ups and conspiracies running deeper than even he had imagined. All the while, in the background, the clock ticks down to the day the British leave . . .

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: The Best Horror of the Year Ellen Datlow, 2011-06-01 A doctor makes a late-night emergency call to an exclusive California riding school; a professor inherits a mysterious vase... and a strange little man; a struggling youth discovers canine horrors lurking beneath the streets of Albany; a sheriff ruthlessly deals with monstrosities plaguing his rural town; a pair of animal researchers makes a frightening discovery at a remote site; a sweet little girl entertains herself... by torturing faeries; a group of horror aficionados attempts to track down an unfinished film by a reclusive cult director; a man spends a chill night standing watch over his uncle's body; a girl looks to understand her place in a world in which zombies have overrun the earth; a murderous pack of nuns stalks a pair of Halloween revelers... What frightens us, what unnerves us? What causes that delicious shiver of fear to travel the lengths of our spines? It seems the answer changes every year. Every year the bar is raised; the screw is tightened. Ellen Datlow knows what scares us; the seventeen stories included in this anthology were chosen from magazines, webzines, anthologies, literary journals, and single author collections to represent the best horror of the year. Legendary editor Ellen Datlow (Lovecraft Unbound, Tails of Wonder and Imagination), winner of multiple Hugo, Bram Stoker, and World Fantasy awards, joins Night Shade Books in presenting The Best Horror of the Year, Volume Three.

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: Beckett in Popular Culture P.J. Murphy, Nick Pawliuk, 2015-12-11 What do Bono, Seinfeld and Apple have in common? Nothing. However, it's the nothing of Samuel Beckett, which is something. Bold and provocative, Beckett's works and even his image are a potent force in modern society. Shoes, marketing, baby names--all fall under his spell. This collection of new essays (one exception) finds him incorporated into virtually all aspects of

popular culture--television, popular fiction, movies, tattoos, even sports--in a manner that seems to defy classifying. Is it image-making or image-taking? Why is our culture so obsessed with an obscure Irish writer most people have not read? Each essay provides a unique appraisal of Beckett's branding.

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: This Is Thailand Marek Lenarcik, 2013-07 This is Thailand is the riveting real-life account of Marek Lenarcik's blind leap from the safe, comfortable and utterly bullshit, corporate world of Dublin to the charming, exotic beaches of Thailand. With rose-tinted glasses firmly in place, Marek fully expects to find a land of exotic fruits, beautiful women and an easy-going tropical lifestyle. Which he does. At first. Traveling from Phuket to Bangkok and throughout Thailand's exotic locales, Marek's desire to experience all the forbidden fruits Thailand has to offer leads him to Piam, a gorgeous, kind, independent Thai girl who, he is convinced, might well be the one. But as he immerses himself deeper into this strange country, replete with often inexplicable thought-patterns, worldviews and customs, Marek begins to discover a much darker, more complex side to the Land of Smiles and its inhabitants. Soon, Piam begins to reveal her true colours. It soon dawns on him that, despite his best intentions (most of the time), he has been ensnared -- as have many men before him -- by the dreaded Honey Trap. The stormy relationship that ensues provides a fascinating backdrop to the insights into Thailand's unique culture that stem from Marek's efforts to come to terms with the reality of the country and the people who call it home.

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: Death Effect John Burdett, 2017-04-17 A noir short story from John Burdett, international best-selling author of *The Bangkok Asset*, the most recent novel in the critically-acclaimed Bangkok mystery series. Sheriff Jack Gatt is the least eligible (read: least desirable) bachelor in Etowah County, Alabama, especially to Medical Examiner Bethany Lee Brown, who has done all she can to avoid his slobbering desire for her. That is, until he makes her a proposal...or two...she really can't refuse. What is it that has Bethany shift in an instant from repulsion for the unshaven, lout Gatt to irresistible lust for him and...a darkly odd partnership that neither of them could resist if their very lives and careers depended on it?

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: Freedom Angel John Burdett, 2017-04-24

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: Vulture Peak John Burdett, 2012-11-01 Nobody knows Bangkok like Royal Thai Police Detective Sonchai Jitpleecheep, and there is no one quite like Sonchai: a police officer who has kept his Buddhist soul intact-more or less-despite the fact that his job shoves him face-to-face with some of the most vile and outrageous crimes and criminals in Bangkok. But for his newest assignment, everything he knows about his city-and himself-will be a mere starting point. He's put in charge of the highest-profile criminal case in Thailand-an attempt to bring an end to trafficking in human organs. He sets in motion a massive sting operation and stays at its center, traveling to Phuket, Hong Kong, Dubai, Shanghai, and Monte Carlo. He draws in a host of unwitting players that includes an aging rock star wearing out his second liver and the mysterious, diabolical, albeit gorgeous co-queenpins of the international body-parts trade: the Chinese twins known as the Vultures. And yet, it's closer to home that Sonchai will discover things getting really dicey: rumors will reach him suggesting that his ex-prostitute wife, Chanya, is having an affair. Will Sonchai be enlightened enough-forget Buddha, think jealous husband-to cope with his very own compromised and compromising world? All will be revealed here, in John Burdett's most mordantly funny, propulsive, fiendishly entertaining novel yet.

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: The Bangkok Asset John Burdett, 2015 In his latest case, Sonchai is paired with young, female inspector Krom. Like him, she's an outsider on the police force, but she is socially savvy and a technological prodigy. In the midst of a typhoon they witness a deadly demonstration of super-human strength from a man who is seemingly controlled by a CIA operative. Could the Americans really have figured out a way to create some sort of super-soldier who is both physically and psychologically enhanced? Are they testing it, or him, on Thai soil? And why is everyone, from the Bangkok police to the international community, so eager to turn a blind eye? The case takes Sonchai to a hidden Cambodian jungle compound for ageing

American vets where he discovers exactly how far a government will go to protect its very worst secrets both past and present.

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: *The New Yorker* Harold Wallace Ross, William Shawn, Tina Brown, Katharine Sergeant Angell White, David Remnick, Rea Irvin, Roger Angell, 2009-12

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: *A Personal History of Thirst* John Burdett, 2016-05-10 From former British barrister John Burdett comes a psychosexual novel in the tradition of *Damage* and *Presumed Innocent*. At the heart of *A Personal History of Thirst* is an ill-fated love triangle where all hunger for something and are willing to risk everything to get it, blurring the boundaries between right and wrong and love and hate to do so. Thirst tells a gripping tale of murder, revenge, infidelity, ambition, and deception that keeps shocking until the stunning courtroom climax. Ambitious London lawyer James Knight, a prosperous solicitor, has denied his lower-class background and carefully molded his public image in order to climb the social and professional ladder of the British legal system. He will soon take silk—become a Queen's counsel barrister, the highest rank a lawyer can obtain. More than a decade earlier, however, James had lived on the fringe of acceptable society and rigid British ethics during his years at university, experimenting with sex and drugs in a passionate love affair with a stunning and brilliant American named Daisy Smith. James's life takes an unexpected turn early in his career when he meets a client—an accused thief named Oliver Thirst—for a drink and a chat in a pub. Although they could not be more different, James is drawn to Thirst's high intelligence and wit. Soon their illicit friendship develops into a dark and erotic ménage à trois with Daisy at the center. Now, eleven years later, one is dead and two are suspected of murder. The murder investigation at the center of this impossible-to-put-down novel uncovers the bizarre love story between the barrister, the American, and the thief. And, in the end, *A Personal History of Thirst* answers the question: What happens when genuine love becomes mixed with perverse obsession?

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the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: *The Publishers Weekly*, 2009

the godfather of kathmandu john burdett: *Bangkok Eight* John Burdett, 2013-01-31 In surreal Bangkok, city of temples and brothels, where Buddhist monks in saffron robes walk the same streets as world-class gangsters, a US marine sergeant is killed inside a locked Mercedes by a maddened python and a swarm of cobras. Two policemen - the only two in the city not on the take - arrive too late. Minutes later, only one is alive. The cop left standing, Sonchai Jitpleecheep, is a devout Buddhist and swears to avenge the death of his partner and soul brother. To do so he must use the forensic techniques of the modern policing and his own profound understanding of the

mystical workings of the spirit world. Both will be vital as he immerses himself in the moneyed underbelly of Bangkok - where desire rules and where he will eventually find the killer, a predator of an even more sinister variety...

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